

[The Great Decimation, The Collapse of the Louisiana Deer Population](#) November 22, 2017

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... Hide hunters, who paid just one dollar for a commercial license, were depleting the herd the locals depended on for food... Biologists estimate that Louisiana's deer population dropped from several hundred thousand in 1700 to an estimated 70,000 animals by the early 1900s. In some areas, deer disappeared completely...

[2017 Deer Management Plan, Deer Population and Management](#) from Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fish

... Before Louisiana was colonized, the statewide deer population was estimated at 400,000. During the 19th century, early settlers and market hunting reduced the herd. Large-scale timber cuts in the late 1800s and early 1900s left deer concentrated in remaining cover and habitat where they were vulnerable to overharvest (St. Amant 1959). Hunting laws and bag limits were too liberal or not enforced, and deer numbers fell dramatically. The deer population was lowest between 1915 and 1925, with an all-time low estimated at 20,000 deer in 1925 (St. Amant and Perkins 1953). However, some deer survived in the deep swamps and margins, and as formerly deforested habitats grew into second growth forests, deer began to recover (St. Amant 1959)...

... Moreland (1996) estimated the Louisiana deer herd at one million at its peak. According to our long-term mail survey, harvest estimates peaked in 1997 at 267,600 deer. Since then, harvests trended downward until about 2012 ..